

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1.-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 48,~~

An apparatus for drug administration, comprising:

an ingestible capsule, which comprises:

a drug, stored by the capsule;

a pH-sensitive coating, adapted to change a state thereof responsive to a disposition of the capsule within a gastrointestinal tract of a subject;

a first electrode;

a control component, which, in response to the change of state of the pH-sensitive coating, is adapted to facilitate passage of the drug through an epithelial layer of the gastrointestinal tract by forming openings in tight junctions of the epithelial layer by driving a current into a wall of the gastrointestinal tract via the electrode; and

a self-expansible portion having the first electrode thereon, and configured to improve contact between the gastrointestinal tract wall and the electrode by expanding the portion,

wherein the capsule comprises a needle comprising a sharp tip thereof,

wherein the tip of the needle is adapted to contact the layer of the gastrointestinal tract in response to the change of state of the pH-sensitive coating,

wherein the capsule comprises an elastic element, adapted to maintain the sharp tip of the needle at an original position that is substantially within the capsule, prior to the change of state,

wherein, in response to an action of the control component, the elastic element is adapted to change shape in a manner that permits the sharp tip of the needle to contact the layer of the gastrointestinal tract, and

wherein, at a time after initiation of the passage of the drug through the layer, the elastic element is adapted to cause the sharp tip of the needle to withdraw to the original position.

52.-69. (Canceled)

70. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 67,~~

An apparatus for drug administration, comprising:

an ingestible capsule, which comprises:

a drug, stored by the capsule;

a pH-sensitive coating, adapted to change a state thereof responsive to a disposition of the capsule within a gastrointestinal tract of a subject;

a first electrode;

a control component, which, in response to the change of state of the pH-sensitive coating, is adapted to facilitate passage of the drug through an epithelial layer of the gastrointestinal tract by forming openings in tight junctions of the epithelial layer by driving a current into a wall of the gastrointestinal tract via the electrode; and

a self-expansible portion having the first electrode thereon, and configured to improve contact between the gastrointestinal tract wall and the electrode by expanding the portion,

wherein the capsule further comprises a second electrode,

wherein the control component is adapted to form the openings in the tight junctions of the epithelial layer by driving the current between the first and second electrodes in response to the change of state of the pH-sensitive coating,

wherein the capsule further comprises a third electrode, and wherein the control component is adapted to drive a current between the first and third electrodes in response to the change of state of the pH-sensitive coating,

wherein the control component is adapted to configure the current driven between the first and third electrodes to consist essentially of an iontophoretic current, and

wherein the control component is adapted to configure the current driven between the first and second electrodes to form the openings in the tight junctions of the epithelial layer.

71.-95. (Canceled)

96. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 94,~~

An apparatus for drug administration, comprising:

an ingestible capsule, which comprises:

a drug, stored by the capsule;

a pH-sensitive coating, adapted to change a state thereof responsive to a disposition of the capsule within a gastrointestinal tract of a subject;

a first electrode;

a control component, which, in response to the change of state of the pH-sensitive coating, is adapted to facilitate passage of the drug through an epithelial layer of the gastrointestinal tract by forming openings in tight junctions of the epithelial layer by driving a current into a wall of the gastrointestinal tract via the electrode; and

a self-expansible portion having the first electrode thereon, and configured to improve contact between the gastrointestinal tract wall and the electrode by expanding the portion,

wherein the capsule further comprises a piston and a piston driver, and wherein the piston driver is adapted to drive the piston to drive the drug from the capsule,

wherein the piston driver comprises a spring-like mechanical element.

97.-173. (Canceled)